

The Entire Pacific Coast to Play Host to Democrats

Hospitality Is To Be the Keynote of San Francisco's First National Convention

SAN FRANCISCO intends that when the host of delegates from forty-eight states and five territories arrive in San Francisco for the Democratic National Convention, along with the multitude of alternates, women folk, political lobbyists, newspapermen and others drawn from all corners of the country, they shall find themselves taken care of with a hospitality so capably expressed as to have been excelled never before by any other convention city, whether Democratic or Republican.

Supporting her in this determination are the adjacent cities of San Francisco Bay—Oakland, Alameda and Berkeley—Los Angeles in the south, Sacramento to the north; the whole State of California, in fact. Nor that alone; for because this is the first time in the history of the country that a Pacific Coast city has been selected by either of the two great political parties as a national convention venue, the neighboring states of the West, it is being seen, are regarding it as their convention also, and intend to do all in their power to help it along in order that the West may outdo the records of the Middle West and the East in this matter.

Plenty for Entertainment

When the great cities were fighting one another for the honor of being chosen for the convention San Franciscans last January promised the conference \$100,000 for expenses and said that \$50,000 would be forthcoming for entertainment expenditure, and even another \$50,000 if necessary. With the convention drawing near, there is not the slightest doubt in California that every dollar required to do the thing on a lavish scale will be found, and found without trouble. The Republicans themselves, for the credit of their city, have announced themselves ready to assist the Democrats on this occasion in any direction that is open to them.

Having the "goods" in the shape of scope and facilities for the big assembly, commercial and industrial standing and potentialities, scenery and climate and a hundred-and-one other adjuncts, the people here are preparing to make the utmost of so unique and important an opportunity to send abroad the glad tidings of the fact through the convention visitors.

Promptly after the selection of the convention city, Homer S. Cummings, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, sent his assistant and personal representative, George F. Mara, to San Francisco

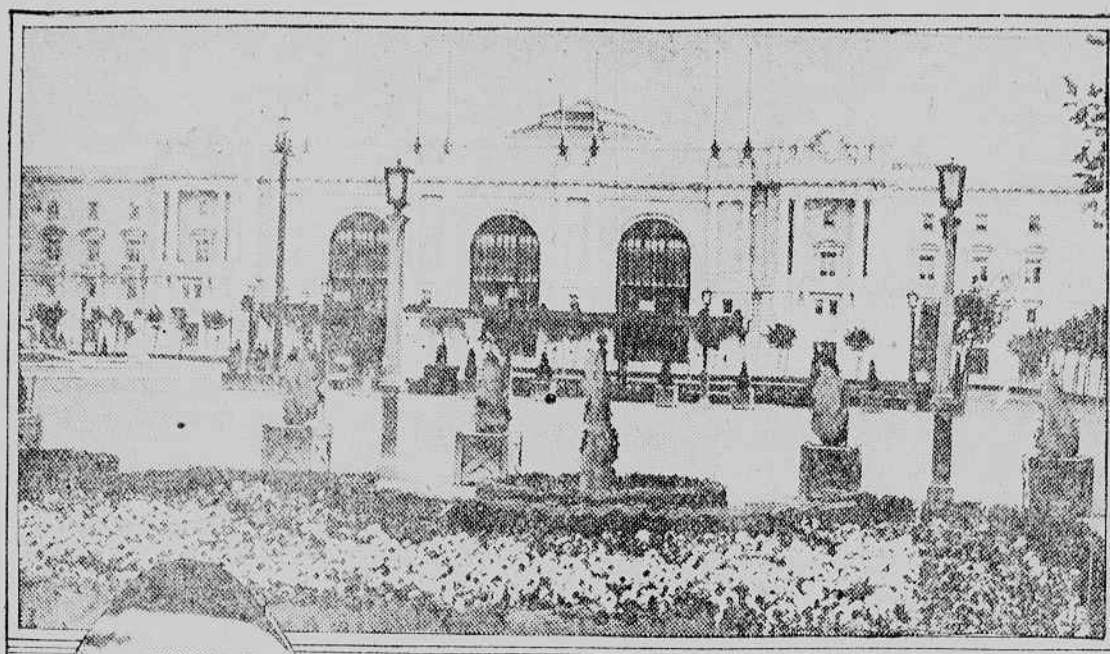
to organize the city in advance. Mara has been busy on the job for the last four months, and is satisfied with the results. With six assistants is installed in offices in the Exposition Auditorium, where Cummings will have his head location during the convention. It is in this structure that those charged to make the rudder wherewith to steer the Democratic ship for the next four years will hold their deliberations. Therefore a little information about it just here should not be considered amiss.

For the Panama Exposition

Built at a cost of \$1,250,000 by the Panama-Pacific Exposition Company for the special use of the many congresses and conventions that met in San Francisco in 1915 and afterward given to the city as a permanent memorial of the exposition, the Auditorium covers a complete city block that forms one side of the Civic Center. The block is bounded by Grove, Larkin, Hayes and Polk streets, and the city provided the ground for the purpose at an additional cost of \$701,000. To the left, as one emerges from the building, is the magnificent City Hall, and opposite, across a broad plaza, is seen the Public Library.

The main hall of the Auditorium, in which the actual convention will be held, has a seating capacity of 10,200. Its ceiling, or, rather, roof, soars to a height of four stories. In addition to this hall there are ten smaller halls, each with a seating capacity of 400 or more, and nineteen rooms suitable for committee meetings or gatherings of small convention sections, each capable of seating from 30 to 125 people. Wide corridors run around the main hall on all four of its sides—corridors that are really indoor promenades. A balcony capable of accommodating several thousand people overlooks the main hall from three sides, and of this a good deal of use will be made.

This giant piece of architecture already has accommodated many most notable gatherings; and within its walls speeches have been delivered by some of the world's biggest and brainiest men. Expansive though the main hall is, there are no doubt many people in this country who are of the opinion that a seating capacity of 10,200 will not be found equal to the occasion. And it is a fact that it falls short to the extent of some 18,000 seat spaces of that which the Democratic party was able to secure in St. Louis four years ago and in Baltimore eight years ago. But it is important to bear in mind as against



THIS building, which will house the Democratic National Convention, was built at the time of the Panama-Pacific Exposition



MRS. KELLOGG FAIRBANK, of Chicago, member of the Executive Committee of the Democratic National Convention

this phase of the question that no other auditorium that could have



MISS ELISABETH MARBURY, New York delegate to the Democratic National Convention

been available, not excluding even the Coliseum in Chicago, has such a splendid array of side halls and rooms for office and sectional committee utilization.

For Committee Rooms

George F. Mara has made plans to take advantage of these valuable adjuncts to the full. They will be used by such bodies as the Committee on Resolutions and the Committee on Credentials; and the National Committee rooms themselves will be here.

"While the main hall is not quite so large as we should prefer it to be for our purpose," remarked Mara, "the rest of the accommodations in the Exposition Auditorium range far in excess of what we had ever hoped to find at our service."

The main platform is extensive. The press platform will be of the same size as the one in Chicago and larger than that at St. Louis.

Since the decision to meet in San Francisco was made there has been not a little adverse criticism of the Auditorium from the point of view that concerns its acoustical properties. This criticism has been heard in the Eastern parts of the country mainly. It has been asserted variously that on account of the height and domed shape of the ceiling the voice of a rapid speaker will echo and reach through the assembly to such an extent that at the height of his peroration his words will be found unintelligible to his hearers; that there is so much waste space overhead as to absorb so much of the volume of sound produced by the average speaker that there will be an insufficiency left for the ears of the listeners, and that only speak-

Improving the Acoustics

Much of this criticism is not taken seriously by people who have attended conventions, musical gatherings and other functions in the building. This, however, is not to say that the acoustical properties of the place are not open to some improvement. In fact, improvements have

been planned for a long time past. More than this, they are now being effected, and by June 28, when the convention will be opened, whatever light cause for complaint there may be will have been remedied.

Mara himself may be quoted here in support of this assurance on so important a point. When asked to state his opinion about it, he said: "I must say that I welcome the opportunity to reassure the Democrats and the public at large on this question. The Panama-Pacific Exposition Company has mapped out an expenditure of no less than \$50,000 to improve the acoustics of this hall, and in order to meet the convenience of the convention, actuated by that determination to do what can be done on behalf of the convention, which is so widespread among people of all political leanings in San Francisco, this company has for some weeks past had in hand a partial expenditure of this allocation, to the extent of \$20,000. The chairman of the committee on acoustics, John Britton, and a well known San Francisco architect, G. Albert Lansburgh, have the work well in hand."

AN interior view of the hall in San Francisco in which the Democrats will nominate their candidate for President. Its seating capacity is placed at 10,200

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Promise Wire Service

The telegraphic and telephonic arrangements are being pushed ahead. Special telephone booths for official, semi-official and public use are being fitted up at the Auditorium, also at the National Committee headquarters in the Palace Hotel. Newspaper representatives will find their requirements in this direction specially catered for. Eastern criticism has been heard of late to the effect that San Francisco will be proved incompetent to handle the enormous volume of press dispatches and other wire matter; but the traffic engineers of the Western Union Telegraph Company, whose word ought to be good enough for reasonable people, say that there is no need to regard this criticism in other than a light vein.

The ordinary national convention does not give rise to more than an average of 1,500,000 words, although the Republican National Convention of 1912 broke all records, more than 4,000,000 words being filed for transmission. The multiplex department of the new Western Union office here is claimed

to be the last word in telegraphy. These typewriter-like instruments, operated by experienced girls, punch holes in a paper tape which passes through a transmitting machine sending electrical impulses over the wire to New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Dallas, Los Angeles, Seattle or wherever else the destination may be, while at the other end of the wire the message is struck off word for word on an automatic typewriter.

The Crowd Expected

Estimates of the number of visitors who will be drawn to this center for the convention range variously from 41,500 to 60,000—the former being the estimate of Postmaster Charles W. Fay, chairman of the Committee on Arrangements, and the latter that of leading hotel men including the 1,200 delegates and alternates, the sixty officers and members of the National Committee, and the correspondents, reporters, clerks and attaches, these officially and semi-officially connected with the meet will number around 1,500. In Fay's opinion; then there will be, he estimates, 10,000 persons, comprising most of the members of Congress, the various candidates and their "camp," prominent members of the party and the families and friends of the delegates, the remaining 30,000 being people at large.

A housing committee to deal with the flood of applications for accommodations, beginning to break this early, was organized by the executive committee of the Northern California Hotel Association as far back as January 9, and on that date this body conservatively estimated that in excess of 800 reservations had been made by newspapers, press associations and convention delegates. On behalf of the hotel men it was announced that there would be no increase in the hotel rates and that the association would prosecute vigorously all who might be guilty of "hold-up" tactics. The visitors are thus assured of fair play.

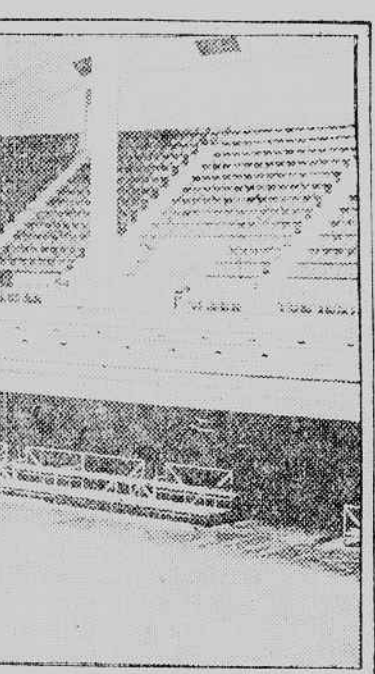
Mara himself declares that the housing accommodations, both in hotels and apartment buildings, will be found to be better and more reasonable in rates than any other convention city has hitherto afforded. There are a great number of Class A hotels in San Francisco, and the city abounds in apartment houses, a fact to which reference has already been made.

Besides housing the civic committee



HOMER S. CUMMINGS, chairman of the Democratic National Committee

tee (headed by Postmaster Fay), the Palace Hotel will be the business center of the convention. This hotel is historic in that it was the center of great happenings in the city's growth in the mining days, when kings of gold sat upon their thrones in its lobby, issuing their bonanza edicts that gave the world a delirium. When its palm court, rose room and grill are thrown together some two thousand persons can be seated therein as in one room. One of the features of the hotel is



MISS HARRIET MAY MILLS, also a New York delegate to the Democratic National Convention

its Sunday evening concerts in the palm court, where the finest classical numbers are rendered.

The Democratic delegates and dignitaries and the leading newspaper men will be housed at the Hotel St. Francis, the magnificent edifice twelve stories high on Powell Street, stretching over the entire block between Geary and Polk streets and fronting Union Square. The Fairmont Hotel, an equally splendid house on Nob Hill, stretching over the Mason Street block from California to Sacramento Street, has been specially selected for the accommodation of the women folk and of those prominent men who will be accompanied by their families. The women will be delighted with the Fairmont, for it makes truly an ideal holiday home.

Delegations Not Separated

Beyond these three places Mara has engaged three thousand rooms for the delegates and alternates, at thirty other Class A hotels, and he claims so to have mapped out his arrangements that in 90 per cent of instances there will be no divisions of delegations—for instance, the New York delegation will be kept together at one hotel, and so on. There is another fine feature of

Hotel Men Are Under Solemn Promise Not to Advance Their Prices for the Visitors

the housing scheme, and that is the handy centralization that has been found possible here. If one were to walk a circle around the area sheltering the delegates and alternates, for instance, one would complete the distance in thirty minutes, and this area is right in the business heart of the city and within fifteen minutes' walking distance of the Auditorium.

Comprehensive entertainment plans are afoot. The men folk will be cared for by a committee headed by Mayor James Rolph Jr., Senator James D. Phelan, Postmaster Fay and Attorney Gavin McNab; the women folk by a committee of which the principal officers are Miss Mary Fay, Mrs. Charles Donohue (president of the Democratic Women's Club of California), and Mrs. Anderson Reid. The two committees number some 250 persons. Organ recitals will be given with the instrument in the Auditorium—one of the grandest organs in the world—and these will alternate with concerts provided there by two bands.

In especial honor of the women who, by the way, will find two reception rooms at their service at the Auditorium and another elsewhere in the city at a place not yet selected, there will be concerts, banquets and balls at the leading hotels and cafes. Many of the celebrated California barbecues and breakfasts will take place out of doors. Excursions will be held to such world-renowned pleasure and beauty resorts as the Yosemite Valley, the Big Trees, Lake Tahoe, Desolation Valley and the Glen Alpine region, Mount Shasta, the Geysers and Petrified Forest, Santa Cruz, Mount Tamalpais and Muir Woods and around San Francisco Bay itself—one of the world's finest bays.

The Los Angeles Chamber of

Commerce intends to give a banquet to all those attending the convention from the Los Angeles region. The Oakland Chamber of Commerce and other east bay bodies are making some arrangements. The San Francisco chamber and a multitude of city clubs have many elaborate schemes of their own as well.

Girls as Ushers

California beauty of a still better character will smile upon the men folk, for 500 girls, chosen equally from the University of California and Stanford University by Edward Martin and Frederick Supple (the former being president of the University of California Democratic Club and the latter president of the analogous body at Stanford), are being organized as usherettes to the convention. These young ladies will show the delegates into the convention, and the fellow who observes that he is to sit at a place not quite so prominently situated as he would like will think that he is as fortunate as to have been favored with any old corner at all under such circumstances.

Most of these girls, too, will be of Democratic sympathies. Mara has been really overwhelmed with applications for usherette positions. Never before was a man so popular with the fair sex. The usherette affair, of course, is but another manifestation of the tremendous interest which the women of California, who have had the vote since 1912, feel in matters political or otherwise exciting to their local patriotism.

Mr. Cummings will arrive at San Francisco at the head of the committee on arrangements on June 2. It is probable that the convention will last from June 28 to Independence Day.

Basques a Strange Race

UNDER the title "A Basque Sabbath," a French correspondent of "The London Times" describes the "pelota," the ball game native to Northern Spain, as played by two rival teams, one Basque, the other Spanish. He writes:

"A friend of mine had been describing to me that strange Basque race which, half in France, half in Spain, clings to the abrupt slopes of the Pyrenees from Biarritz and Bayonne as far as the boundary of what used to be Cantabria."

"All said and done," he concluded, "what do we know about the Basque? There are some who maintain that they derive from an Iberian tribe, the Vascons; others hold that they are the descendants of navigators who sailed from the other side of the world and stranded on this coast—Japanese and Mexican words do indeed occur in the Basque language; others, again, profess to believe that they must be the last survivors of Atlantis, the legendary land engulfed by the sea thousands of years ago. But, no matter what their origin, they are a sturdy race and fiercely preserve their type, their tongue, the gloomy fanaticism of their worship and their mysterious traditions."

"I thought of these words as one rough Sunday morning, with a high wind shredding the gray clouds between the pointed teeth of the nearby Pyrenees. I contemplated in a Basque village a swarm of men clustered about the circle of the old church porch. Nothing but men—the oldest among them especially perpetuating a very pure type of the race: shaven faces, broad, rugged features, long eyes, deep under beaming brows, noses also long and somewhat arched, jaws salient from a powerful muscular neck, and those square-ported shoulders that look hewn out of granite."

"The players, without more ado, fasten each to his right wrist a leather glove terminating in a long, narrow wicker basket hooked like a claw—the *chistera*, with which they are to catch and throw the ball."

"And now the game starts: of goes the hard little white ball, whizzing as it hurtles through the air, and with a hollow smack it hits the wall; then it rebounds, and the players, marking their quarry with an eager eye, swoop violently upon it in full flight or delicately retrieve it as it skims level with the ground, until at last one or the other of them lets it fall dead and loses his side a point."

"Each of the two teams has its peculiar type and style, and of these attributes each of the two captains looks the incarnate sum. Pepe, the Basque, lean and supple, a dry, tense figure without a particle of superfluous flesh, without one gesture too much, without any words at all, light on the very tip of his cord-soled shoes, deadly true and keen as a fine steel blade. Only an occasional twitch of face or arm silently mimics his hope, his vexation or his joy."

"The Spanish Win
"And still the game goes on, contested with savage valor, with stirring alternations and vicissitudes; still the ball whistles through the air, hits the wall with a smack and rebounds—all this at such a pace that the eye can hardly follow its mad career; still the errier utters his long, drawing notes, and the quivering spectators grow more frenzied as the end approaches. until at last the Spanish team wins by a few points, just as the sun's red light suddenly goes out. Slowly the gathering disperses; some few linger yet a while in the old graveyard; there beneath rough granite crosses—graven only with a date and with some such uncouth, strange-syllabled Basque name as Martio-baita, Mendiburu or Ondicota—between the eternal hills and the eternal sea, sleep the forbears of those who but a moment since were so transported by their game of ball."

Treasures of the Czar

A HANDSOME fan, bought by the Czar of Russia as a love token for the Czarina the first time the royal couple visited Paris after their wedding, a baptismal bowl 1,100 years old, from which all members of the royal family were baptized, several bracelets belonging to the Czarina and a number of other intimate trinkets owned by the unfortunate Czarina and her daughters are now in the possession of Rev. Dr. John Logan Findlay, pastor of Old South Church, Worcester, Mass., and are stored away in a local bank for safekeeping.

These articles were all purchased by the Rev. Dr. Findlay from run-crazed soldiers of the Kerensky régime as they staggered out of the great Winter Palace, in Petrograd, heavily laden with all kinds of property owned by the Czar, the Czarina and her children.

The soldiers had looted the palace from the cellar to the roof, and seemed to take especial joy in the various trinkets and baubles found in the apartments of the Czarina and her unfortunate daughters.

The ancient baptismal bowl is small, of silver, with an exquisite flower design on its exterior, which is carried out on the centerpiece inside the bowl. The flower motif is inlaid in gold leaf on a rich, old-blue enamel background, with the petals of the flowers, which number hundreds, set in pearls and other precious stones. Tiffany, of New York, recently valued this treasure at \$2,000.

The most gorgeous object of the collection is the large fan. The long white feathers are mounted on carefully selected mother of pearl sticks. On one corner of the fan is a coffee stain, the story of which was told to Dr. Findlay by Tatiana, the second daughter of the Czar, not long before her tragic death. The stain came upon the fan at a reception which the Czarina attended, and she was greatly distressed at the accident, which, however, does not affect the valuation of the fan, which Tiffany put at \$5,000.

Two quaint silver bracelets, six

hundred years old, which were taken by a soldier from the Czarina's apartments, are also in the collection. The old-fashioned design of the engraving as well as the shape of the bracelets bespeaks their antiquity.

Included in the historic curios are a knife, fork and skewer, said to be among the first made in Europe. The short ivory handles are oddly engraved, and all three show beauty of design and proportion. These were among the curios at the Winter Palace.

Two heart-shaped boxing irons are other objects of interest in Dr. Findlay's collection, not for their beauty but for the use to which they were put in olden days. With one of these in the palm of each hand, two combatants often decided the issues between armies—a custom which at least prevented great sacrifice of human life.

Two towels, about three yards in length, with deep borders suggestive of Turkish design and color, complete the collection. The towels are more than two hundred years old and in excellent condition. In speaking of them Dr. Findlay referred to the custom in Russia of never touching the embroidery on towels; only the plain cloth is used for the purpose for which the towel is intended.

In telling of the purchase of his treasures Dr. Findlay said:

"In November, 1917, the great Bolshevik revolution started and Kerensky fled to Finland for his life and many of his Cabinet were assassinated. The reign of terror started with thousands killed in Petrograd and Moscow. Over 47,000 troops were not paid for months. Trotzky and Lenin, both of whom I met many times, as well as Kerensky, gave permission that the soldiers might clean up the wine cellar of the Winter Palace for one week. No one was safe on the streets of Petrograd during that week. Then followed the permission given to the soldiers to enter the palace and take whatever they could carry away in a burlap bag."